



DOCKET: 1968 Reissue

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Charles A. Finn, et al

Serial No.: 08/988,331 Examiner: Daphna Shai

Filed: December 11, 1997 Group: 3731

For: **UNIVERSAL COUPLER FOR SPINAL FIXATION**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 22, 1999, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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17. (Amended) A spinal rod coupler assembly comprising:
a coupler member having first, second and third openings, the first opening dimensioned to slidably receive a spinal rod and fully surround a portion thereof and the second opening dimensioned to receive a locking fastener to retain the spinal rod within the coupler member; and

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a fastener receiving member having an opening to receive a bone fastener, the fastener receiving member rotatably and slidably mounted with respect to the coupler member to adjust the position of the fastener, the fastener receiving member being mountable in the third opening of the coupler member.

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34. (Amended) A spinal rod coupler assembly comprising:
a coupler member having first, second and third openings, the first opening dimensioned to slidably receive a spinal rod, and the second opening dimensioned to receive